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SUBJECT : General NICHOLAI KHESSIN
SOURCE : AB/1043
EVALUATION : C-3
DATE : 8 April 1946

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 2520
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

Subject lives at present at No.4 Str.Clopoteni Vechi, Bucharest. He was born in Filament, in 1876 and is of Romanian citizenship and Orthodox faith. He has the "Garment GR" No.116 of 1940 and is now a General in the Romanian Army by profession. His last domicile was at No.108 Str. Marea Tricolor, Bucharest till 6 Dec 1944 when he moved in the building of the Ministry of Interior since he was the Minister. Later on, when he was forced to resign from his position as a Prime Minister, and he was supposed to be arrested or even murdered by the Communists, he was taken under the protection of the British Mission in Bucharest and lived for almost a month in the building at No.24 Str.Jules Michelet. Finally, he moved at the present address when the GROMA Government took the responsibility of protecting him against any sort of harm.

On 1 Dec 1944, Subject was proposed by General SAHATESCU who was Prime Minister, for the post of General in Chief of the General Staff. Subject accepted but as the SAHATESCU Government had to resign on 3 Dec, Subject was the one appointed by the King to form the new Government. That is how, on 6 Dec 1944, Subject presented the list of his new Government which was accepted by the King and they took the oath. Subject held in this Government the position of Prime Minister and Minister of the Interior since the former Minister of the Interior, NICHOLAI PENESCU was not agreed by the Leftist Parties. Thus, Subject had to cover all the work of the two positions he was holding.

A whole series of misunderstandings and dissatisfactions made Subject oppose certain proposals of the Undersecretary of State for the State Administration in the Ministry of the Interior, Mr.FRIGIANI GHEORGHE, and even asked Mr.PETRE GROMA who was Vice President of the Council of Ministers in his Government, to approve the dissolving of the Undersecretariate of State for the State Administration. This was approved and FRIGIANI GHEORGHE was dismissed. This fact caused all the misunderstandings between Subject and the Leftist Parties which came to their climax when the demonstration of 24 Feb 1945 took place and when the Army shot in the crowd and killed several men. The result was that Subject and his Government were dismissed and by and by, following Vichinsky's pressure upon the King, the present GROMA Government came into office, (6 March 1945).

After the present Government came into power, a whole campaign against Subject began and even Radio Moscow broadcast said that he intended to create a new dictature in Romania, that he sabotaged the purge of the State Organizations and kept into office men guilty of the country's disaster such as:

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Division General FORTUSTRAN, accused to have executed 600 old men and children in an anti tank ditch at Baldir,

General HIGULESCU, who was accused to have stolen a great amount of Russian property during the occupation,

Captain OSTROUSCHI GROVIAN, who was accused of torturing Russians at Smurda and Malitopol.

Subject was also accused to collaborate with the National Peasant Party in which there were certain groups of legionnaires under the leadership of ILIE LAZAR. On this occasion, even IULIU KANIS was accused of working for a Coup d'Etat in collaboration with Subject.

Following all these accusations, Subject was supposed to be arrested but as it is now very well known, he was taken under the protection of the British Mission in Bucharest and lived in their building for almost a month until an agreement was reached with the GROMA Government that Subject would come to no harm.

Subject is free now and now and then there are rumours that he has meetings with KANIS or BRATTANU. There was also a rumour that Subject intends to initiate a new Party called the Conservatory Party but this was never verified.

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